

BOOK REVIEW

VENEREAL DISEASES: A MANUAL FOR PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS

By James Marshall

(Second edition. London: Macmillan and Co. 1948.
Pp. 369, illustrated. Price 21s.)

The publication of a second edition, within two years of this useful manual has required the inclusion of an up-to-date account of penicillin therapy in the venereal diseases. A new chapter deals with the use of penicillin in gonococcal infection and its various complications. The author has found that the majority of complicated infections require a considerably higher dosage and more prolonged therapy than is needed for acute urethritis. Gonococcal arthritis in the author's experience seldom responds any more favourably to penicillin than to other remedies. For relapsed and complicated cases 1 mega unit or more may be needed to control the gonococcal infection, and in this event Marshall considers the effect of high penicillin dosage upon possible concomitant but

undeveloped syphilis infection to be of considerable importance. As a precaution he wisely suggests that the full dosage of 3 mega units or more as used for syphilis should be given.

Another new chapter deals at length with penicillin therapy, in syphilis which is recommended as a routine for every case of early syphilis. The results of penicillin therapy alone, as used in the allied armies, and its limitations are fully discussed. The author recommends a total of 3 mega units spread over seven and a half days, together with a ten-week course of bi-weekly mapharside injections and of bismuth once a week. The arsenical and bismuth therapy is repeated after an interval of a month. Higher total dosage of penicillin is advised for late syphilis and for syphilis during pregnancy.

The section on non-gonococcal urethritis has been expanded and a description of Reiter's syndrome is now included. The new edition of this book maintains its high standard as a useful manual for the practitioner and student.

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